

REMARKS

At the outset, the Examiner is thanked for the thorough review and consideration of the pending application. The Office Action dated November 28, 2006, has been received and its contents carefully reviewed.

Claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32 are rejected to by the Examiner. Claims 13, 23, and 28 have been amended. Claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32 remain pending in this application.

In the Office Action, claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,976,267 to Culkins et al. (hereinafter "Culkins") in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,202,658 to Fishkin et al. (hereinafter "Fishkin") and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,261,378 to Hashimoto et al. (hereinafter "Hashimoto").

The rejection of claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32 is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested. Claims 13, 14, 16, and 18 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "brushing the side surface of the substrate with a cylindrical brush with a central axis that extends partially along the side surface of the substrate in substantially a straight line." Claims 23-25 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "brushing the side surface of the substrate with cleaning brushes that attach to a side surface of a cylindrical body and rotate based on a central axis while moving the substrate continuously in a linear direction." Claims 28-30 and 32 are allowable over the cited references in that each of these claims recites a combination of elements including, for example, "brushing at least two opposing side surfaces with cleaning brushes that attach to a side surface of a cylindrical body and rotate based on a central axis along the at least two opposing side surfaces of the substrate in substantially a straight line." None of the cited references including Culkins, Fishkin, and Hashimoto, singly or in combination, teaches or suggests at least this feature of the claimed invention. The brushes 222 and 322 in Culkins are not cylindrical brush[es] as taught in these claims. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 13, 14, 16, 18, 23-25, 28-30 and 32 are allowable over the cited references.

Applicants believe the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance and early, favorable action is respectfully solicited.

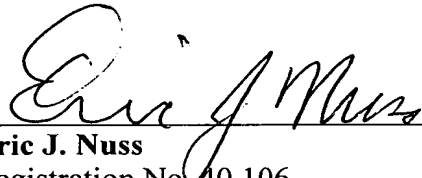
If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. *A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.*

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: **28 February 2007**

By



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